

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 2, under the section heading "RELATED INFORMATION", please replace paragraph [0001] with the following paragraph:

This application claims priority to and is a continuation in part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/698,666, entitled "Non-Blocking, Scalable Optical Router Architecture and Method for Routing Optical Traffic", filed on October 27, 2000 and issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,665,495 to Miles et al. on December 16, 2003, which is hereby fully incorporated by reference.

Starting at the bottom of page 23 and continuing to the top of page 24, please replace paragraph [0055] with the following paragraph:

FIGURE 7 shows another embodiment of an optical switching matrix 85 that can be utilized in another embodiment of optical switch fabric 70. In the FIGURE 7 embodiment, a NxM switching matrix, where N is the number of input data links and M is the number of output data links, is shown that includes 256 1x1 switching elements (labeled 55-1, 55-2...55-250), as opposed to the 16 16x1 switch elements of FIGURE 6. Optical switch fabric 70 can once again optionally include optical receivers 84 and optical transmitters 86, which can be used to filter an/or and/or amplify signals upon receipt at the optical switch fabric 70 (i.e., at the optical receivers 84) and just prior to exiting optical switch fabric 70 (i.e., at optical transmitters 86), as necessary, depending on the noise in the signals and the distance the signals must travel.